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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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CIRCULATE

1. In the winter of 1949¹ Chinese Communist central authorities established the Central and South China Military Area (CSCMA) and military districts in the CSCMA provinces. Units of the 4 Field Army (FA) were stationed in the CSCMA and its high-ranking officers were concurrently appointed to positions of responsibility in the CSCMA Command. This pattern was also followed in the military districts: High-ranking officers of the army group stationed in a province were concurrently appointed to the important posts.
2. This situation changed with the outbreak of the Korean war. When two army groups of the 4 FA were sent to Manchuria, their headquarters could no longer fulfill their responsibilities to the military districts. Central authorities then drew a distinction between army group personnel and military district personnel. It was ordered that officials holding concurrent appointments as commanding officers in an army group and a military district would be relieved from command of the army groups, and their deputies would then be promoted to the post of army group commanders.
3. The Korean war also forced readjustment of duties between the military district and the army group. Now, army groups are not confined to any particular province in which they are stationed, but may be moved at any time on orders of the Chinese Communist Army or field army headquarters. Also military districts do not have any field army units permanently assigned to them, but are given units of military district troops and public security units. It was also ordered that the army groups must stress training for modern warfare, while troops assigned to the military districts have the responsibility of maintaining security in the provinces and of recruiting and training reserve forces.
4. The CSCMA has six military districts and one special military district under its command. The 4 FA commands seven army groups, including

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the 17 Army Group (over which its control is merely nominal). The current list of commanding officers in the CSCMA military districts and of 4 FA army group commands is as follows:

<u>Military District</u>	<u>Commanding Officer</u>
Hupei	WANG Shu-sheng (王樹聲); LI Hsien-nien (李先念), the former commanding officer, has been made political commissar.
Hunan	HUANG K'o-ch'eng (黃克誠). HUANG, formerly commander of the 12 Army Group, resigned for reasons of health. HSIAO Ching-kuang (蕭勁光) was appointed commander of the 12 Army Group, but was soon promoted to the post of naval commander, and HUANG returned to his original post. When the system of dual appointments ended, HUANG was removed from his command of the army group, and now holds only his position as commanding officer of the Hunan Military District.
Honan	CH'EN Tsai-tao (陳再道), formerly commander of the 14 Army Group.
Kiangsi	CH'EN Chi-han (陳奇涵), formerly commander of the 16 Army Group.
South China	YEH Chien-ying.
Kwangtung	YEH Chien-ying, concurrently.
Kwangsi	LI T'ien-yu (李天佑).
<u>4 FA Army Groups²</u>	
12 Army Group	YU Hua-lung (余化龍).
13 Army Group	CH'EN Man-yuan (陳漫遠).
14 Army Group	HUANG Yueh (黃越).
15 Army Group	TENG Hua.
16 Army Group	LIU Tsao-sheng (劉藻生).
21 Army Group	CH'EN Ming-jen

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Presumably this refers to late 1949.

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According to information available to this office, as of June HUANG K'o-ch'eng was believed to command the 12 Army Group (AG), LI T'ien-yu the 13 AG, CH'EN Man-yuan the 14 AG and HSIAO Ching-kuang the 16 AG.

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